

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

24 MAY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~



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1. Laos

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b. In the face of vigorous protests from Brown, Sisouk has confirmed that the Lao "good will" visit to Manila is now planned for 28-30 May.

c. Souvanna is still in Rangoon. The Soviet IL-14 that flew to Rangoon to pick him up on Tuesday was scheduled to leave for Xieng Khouang early this morning, but its departure has been delayed by bad weather over Laos.

d. In Rangoon, Souvanna had nothing new to say, but there was a marked contrast between his cheery public pronouncements and his private comments, which have been somber. In these, he expressed the view that he alone could not promise a settlement or guarantee Laos' perpetual neutrality as long as Phoumi, the Pathet Lao, and particularly the Thai were all against him.

e. The military situation remains quiescent and the rainy season is beginning to settle in

2. West New Guinea Problem

a. NATO Secretary General Stikker, in conversation with General Norstad last week end, seemed anxious to convey the impression that prospects were improving for a change in the Dutch attitude toward negotiations. He told Norstad that the Dutch people would not support a war in New Guinea and that Luns stands alone in opposing renewed talks.

3. South Vietnam

a. Viet Cong has decided to change tactics as a consequence of the build-up of US support in South Vietnam. In addition to making attacks on isolated outposts and strategic hamlets, the Viet Cong plan to single out places where Americans are to be found. According to this report, these tactics are expected to lead eventually to an international conference, "as in Laos."

b. We have new evidence revealing a greater degree of direct North Vietnamese involvement in Viet Cong operations than we had previously known. We are now virtually sure that several members of the North Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee have been in South Vietnam since September 1960, holding down high political and military command slots in the Viet Cong apparatus.

For The President Only—Top Secret

4. Mexico

Our Mexico City Embassy has learned that the government plans to round up 1,000 potential trouble-makers prior to President Kennedy's arrival and to keep them in jail for the duration of his visit. News of this plan seems to have leaked to the Communists and appears to have dampened their ardor for promoting public demonstrations against the President.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--23 MAY 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

Laos: Communist forces in Laos are consolidating their military positions, but are probably refraining from general hostilities pending resumption of political negotiations. However, there have been increases in airlift flights and in communications serving North Vietnamese Army elements in central-southern Laos, similar to those noted before the attack on Nam Tha, which may indicate Communist intentions to renew military pressure in that area.

Indonesia: Expanding Indonesian infiltration activity may signify that Indonesian leaders are giving greater emphasis to a military solution of the West New Guinea problem. Recent Dutch reinforcement and Dutch military responses to Indonesian tactics presage an increase in number and magnitude of engagements.

NOTES

- A. We anticipate that Khrushchev's upcoming trip to Rumania will resemble his trip to Bulgaria in having as its main purpose the whipping of another satellite into line in the drive to refurbish the bloc's fraternal ties with Yugoslavia. [redacted] 50X1
- B. The US convoy that was placed under "official detention" at the Babelsberg checkpoint yesterday was held up again for another hour at Marienborn over the matter of a headcount. It is now quite clear that this latest round of harassment on the autobahn is a Soviet gambit intended to establish prior notification of all Allied convoys as standard procedure. [redacted] 50X1
- C. Uruguay may be the next Latin American country to break relations with Cuba, if only to escape the strains of having to take care of some 350 political asylees now camping on its embassy in Havana. [redacted] [redacted] 50X1
- D. [redacted] the Angolan rebels are planning a general stand-down of guerrilla operations during the current hot season that lasts until October. During the interim, they intend to concentrate on tightening up their organization and building up their inventory of arms. [redacted] 50X1
- E. The undiminished flow of reports indicating mounting unrest in Syria suggests that the political cauldron there remains very close to bubbling over. [redacted] 50X1
- F. The Adoula-Tshombé talks are suspended again as Leopoldville officials, indignant over the distribution of a scurrilous anti-government pamphlet, have again placed close restrictions on the Katangan delegation. [redacted] 50X1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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